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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Ecuador/Peru

DATE DISTR. 3 August 1949

SUBJECT Visit of Enrique Gil Gilbert to Peru

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1. Enrique Gil Gilbert, a leading Ecuadoran Communist, and his wife, Alba de Gil, left Lima, Peru on 14 July 1949 via Faucett Airlines returning to Ecuador. Gil Gilbert and his wife arrived in Lima on 4 April from Guayaquil.
2. After a period of political inactivity enforced principally by his wife's illness, Gil Gilbert was extremely active during his last weeks in Lima. He held frequent conferences with Peruvian Communist leaders; he established the Peruvian "Pro-Paz" committee; and he assisted in organizing Communist labor elements in the Lima area.
3. Although Communist Party of Peru (PCP) leaders were naturally aware of Gil's presence in Peru, no contact was reported between them and Gil until 7 May when Gil paid a visit to the PCP bookstore Nuevo Horizonte, Calle Negreiros 568, and established contact with them, indicating his desire to confer with them at length as soon as possible.
4. A meeting was immediately arranged with Jorge del Prado, Manuel Ugarte and members of the Political Commission of the PCP in Lima at which Gil stated that one of his missions in Peru was to do what he could to ensure closer collaboration in the future between the Communist Parties of Peru and Ecuador. Reporting on his own Party he stated that it had recently been completely reorganized, and he stated that it too faced the same problem as the PCP, namely the problem of purifying the Party of all elements capable of betraying the laboring class and serving capitalist interests, such as the Lamas and the Cerpas of Peru.
5. The Communist Party of Ecuador (PCE) was prepared to reduce itself to the Central Committee alone, he continued, and with this nucleus of tried and true fighters, build a new Party that could take its place beside the best of Latin America for the quality of its militants and the perfection of its organization.
6. He indicated that the Galo Plaza government in Ecuador appeared to be leaning in favor of the working class "in spite of the fact that Plaza spent a short period in the United States prior to his inauguration, presumably to receive instructions and plans from the Imperialists." Gil paid tribute to the work of Pedro Sandoval, he said, one of the bulwarks of their Party.

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7. Referring to Peruvian-Ecuadoran relations, Gil condemned the action of the two governments in artificially creating border incidents to distract attention from internal troubles and to mislead the people. In opposition to this, he declared, all peoples must unite to keep from being used as the tools of dictatorial regimes and military interests.
8. Gil stressed again the importance of the decision of the PCE to strengthen its relations with other Communist Parties of the hemisphere, which according to him had been planned with the greatest care. He requested a report from PCP leaders on the Peruvian situation at a future meeting with them scheduled for a fortnight later. [REDACTED] Gil held no further meetings with PCP leaders during May.
9. Gil was listed as special correspondent on the masthead of the newspaper Nuestro America that appeared in Lima on 15 May, and the paper printed an interview with him in its inside pages. He also gave a lecture at the cultural society, Insula, in Miraflores on 16 May on "La Narrativa Ecuatoriana Contemporanea". Many Communist Party leaders had planned to attend, but were prevented from doing so by the death of Jorge del Prado's sister, Maria Antonieta del Prado de Ponce Martinez, the previous morning.
10. Enrique Gil held a second series of meetings with PCP leaders early in June at which he received a report from Jorge del Prado on the status and activities of the PCP and on the political situation in Peru. He promised to transmit this to Ecuador so that a strong propaganda campaign might be initiated there against the Peruvian Military Junta, and so that the comrades of Ecuador might know the magnificent stand taken and the progress made by the PCP in spite of its illegal status.
11. Once again, Gil stressed the necessity of joint efforts and of collaboration to defeat "the imperialist plans of the Department of State and its lackeys, the subservient governments of Latin America." He indicated at these meetings that one of his primary objectives in Peru was to obtain all possible support for the "Campana pro Paz" which he said had been ordered by "the comrades of the old world" and which, according to him, was being carried out everywhere with such conspicuous success.
12. It was consequently agreed that a luncheon should be held with Gil as the guest of honor and principal speaker on 12 June to launch the "pro-Paz" campaign in Peru. Details of organizing the event were turned over by the Political Commission of the PCP to a committee consisting of Elias Tovar, Alfredo Matthews, Jorge Falcon, Francisco Febres, Enrique Felices, L. N. Grosman and Pepita Pizarro. A luncheon was believed to be not only the most effective way of initiating such a campaign, but also the best way of circumventing the state of siege which might prevent such a meeting on the grounds that it was a political gathering.
13. Gil stated that he was sure that "the agents of imperialism" were following his moves closely, and he cited many instances from his past travel and activities. He was much interested to hear of the difficulties of Francisco Febres which he characterized as direct evidence of the U.S. Department of State's campaign to mark and identify all outstanding Communists. Gil stated that he himself might travel soon to Mexico and that he might seek to obtain a U.S. visa from there to ascertain, if he could, what information the "agents of imperialism" might have concerning him.
14. The luncheon was postponed at Gil's request because of the illness of his wife, and was held on 19 June at the Jardin Malambo, General Vidal 155, Rimac, owned by Rosita Rios, a close friend of the Party.

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15. Some fifty tickets to the luncheon, and "almuerzo criollo", were sold at thirty soles apiece and the following have been identified as attending:

Enrique Gil Gilbert	Alejandra Retenier
Alba Calderon de Gil	Elias Tovar
Catalina Recavarren de Zizold	L. N. Grosman
Laura Caller	Dr. A. Caballero Mendez
Dr. J. Uriel Garcia	Jose Carlos Barriga
Maria R. de Carnero Checa	Luis Andia
Enrique Camino Brent	Alfredo Matthews
Pepita Pizarro	Julio del Prado
Jose Marcos Godino	Enrique Felices
Dr. Hugo Pesce	Hector N. Calvez
Moises Arroyo Posada	Themistocles Bejarano
Cesar Barrio	Jorge del Prado
Jorge Falcon	Francisco Febres
Olga Carmelino de Matthews	A. Campos
Elena de Tovar	Manuel Moreno Jimeno
Albert Tauro	

16. In addition, the following are known to have purchased tickets in support of the luncheon but to have failed to attend for various reasons:

Dr. Ovidio Garcia Rosell
 Rosa Hurwitz
 Augusto Tamayo Vargas
 Jose Antonio Encinas
 N. Echegaray
 Augusto Urteaga
 Rodolfo Ponce Martinez
 Guillermo Zagarra
 Huaman Oyague
 Carlos Arbulu Miranda
 Jose Reccoio
 Ernesto Rojas Zavala
 Manuel Ugarte Saldana

17. In his speech, Gil stated that he had come to Peru for two reasons, first, because of his wife's ill health and second, to carry out a mission assigned to him by "the comrades of Mexico". This mission was to take advantage of his stay in Lima to form a "Comite Pro-Paz" in Peru, so necessary at this period when the conflict between the peaceful desires of the Soviet Union and the war plans of the Anglo-Saxon imperialists were in a world struggle for supremacy. Anything that could now be done to restrain "the lords of the dollar" would react to the benefit of the entire world, he said, and to the benefit of all who cared for the well-being of themselves, their family and their country.
18. He said he felt that there was a favorable atmosphere for a Pro-Paz Committee in Lima and he was sure that it would be a great success in view of the enthusiasm with which this task had already been undertaken by the Peruvian comrades.
19. Discussing the movement as a whole, Gil indicated that Peace Congresses and Committees had been initiated by intellectuals such as his present audience all over the world. In the Americas, a leader in the movement had been General Lazaro Cardenas, who had been designated as President of the American Congress "Pro-Paz" which was originally to have been held in Mexico City in April 1949, but which, he had just been informed, had been postponed until October 1949.

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20. Working closely with these Mexican leaders had been a group from Cuba presided over by Juan Marinello with the full support of General Fulgencio Batista whom he described as "future President of Cuba if they continue as at present in that brother country under a man like Prio Socarras, the creature of the Yankee Dollar, sold out to Yankee Gold." Names such as those leaders, he continued, guaranteed the success of the movement in Latin America toward assuring an effective and a lasting peace. "I, too," he said, "am closely identified with this great and noble campaign and for that reason, on leaving for Peru, I was charged with the task of initiating the campaign in Lima."
21. Two primary objectives, he declared, should now be striven for in every corner of the world. The first is peace, and second the extermination of Yankee imperialism, "direct creator of the present world crisis." He attacked at length the Marshall Plan of the United States aid to Europe and "the lackey governments of South America", in particular that of Gonzalez Videla in Chile, whom he characterized as "the treacherous servant of the imperialists".
22. In closing, Gil urged all those present not to stop with promises but to put into effect their determination to form a Peruvian Committee "Pro-Paz." Not only would it give him great personal satisfaction to hear that his mission in Peru had been a success, he said, but it would act as an important stimulant to him for his work in the future on behalf of the "Pro-Paz" campaign.
23. At the end of his speech, Gil read the names of those who had been selected to form a committee to organize and direct the establishment of the Peruvian Committee "Pro-Paz", as follows:
- Dr. J. Uriel Garcia, President
Jorge Falcon
Elias Tovar
Alberto Tauro
Francisco Febres
L. N. Grosman
Maria Rosa Macedo de Camino, Women's Representative.
24. In accepting his designation as President of the committee, Dr. J. Uriel Garcia stated that he would go to work immediately on his return from the Indian Conference in Cuzco. With reference to the Conference, he said he would work in close collaboration with his fellow delegates Jose Antonio Encinas and Rafael Aguilar, and he hoped for results of importance. "We have always lived in a colonial status," he said, "first under the Spaniards and now, as we are freeing ourselves from that influence, we are becoming instead a Yankee colony with a degree of exploitation far greater than before." He expressed the determination of himself and of his collaborators at the Conference to take a step of importance toward freeing themselves.
25. During the luncheon, copies of a sixteen-page pamphlet entitled "Quien Quiere la Guerra, por Hewlett Johnson, Dean de Canterbury", said to be the text of a speech delivered in the United States, were sold in packets of ten to the guests, with each buyer promising to distribute the remaining nine copies among friends and sympathizers not present at the luncheon. This pamphlet, which bears the legend "Cuadernos Pro Paz No. 1" was specially printed for the occasion by Jorge Falcon at the press used by Hora del Hombre, Jiron Azangaro 1005.

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Comment. Francisco Febres Lopez, a Communist purser on the Peruvian ship RIMAC was recently refused permission by the United States authorities to leave his ship when it was in port at Galveston, Texas.

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